

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 367
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09th DECEMBER, 2022

IMPORT OF POTATO, WHEAT, CRUDE PALM OIL AND REFINED OIL

367 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of import of potato, wheat, crude palm oil and refined oil during the last two years, month-wise and item-wise;
- (b) whether Government has slashed import duty on these products and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cheaper imports are likely to increase as a result thereof, thereby impacting small and marginal farmers; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which Government is planning to address shortage of some of these items and its impact on the farming community?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Month-wise and item-wise value of import of potato, wheat, crude palm oil and refined oil in the last two years are as follows:

Months	Values in US \$ Thousands					
	Potato		Wheat		Palm Oil (Crude & Refined)	
	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
April				0.8	287612.9	766800.8
May				22.8	289312.1	889503.3
June					284404.6	712628.2
July		10.9		0.1	566114.5	627732.5
August		94.0		0.0	504385.0	862032.2
September		164.6			428438.5	1476001.7
October		124.2	0.3	0.3	611562.4	929229.1
November	32.6	291.6	0.1	0.0	484511.3	857991.1
December		57.6	0.1	0.1	685420.0	889236.3
January		14.5			737807.8	853174.6
February			0.9		492044.0	593201.0
March		11.6		0.1	516774.8	884385.3

Source; DGCI&S. Note: '0.0' is appearing due to rounding off.

The details of import duties of potato, wheat, crude palm oil and refined oil are as follows:

- The basic duty on Crude Palm is Nil. The Agri-cess is 5%. This duty has been extended upto 31st March, 2023.
- The basic duty on Refined Palm Oils is 12.5% and has been extended up to 31st March, 2023
- There has been no recent slashing of import duty on potato and wheat and it continues to be 30% and 40% respectively. Also, import of potato is restricted except for Bhutan.

(b) to (d): There is no shortage of potato and wheat in the country. India is net exporter of these items. As per 4th Advance estimate of 2021-22, there has been record production of wheat at 130.29 million tons. Moreover, the import of potato and wheat is negligible. In so far as crude palm oil is concerned, India is dependent on its import to bridge the demand supply gap and the duty of crude palm oil has been made 'nil' to ensure its availability at affordable prices. Import of refined palm oil is discouraged by maintaining a higher duty on its import as compared to crude palm oil.

The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Food Security Mission- Oilseeds & Oil palm (NFSM-OS&OP) from 2018-19 to augment the availability of vegetable oils and to reduce the import of edible oils by increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and area expansion of Oil Palm & Tree Borne Oilseeds in the country. Further, the Government has launched a separate Mission for Oil Palm, which is the National Mission for Edible Oils (Oil Palm)- NMEO (OP) to promote oil palm cultivation for making the country Atmanirbhar in edible oils with special focus on North-Eastern States and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
